



Diocese of Toowoomba  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION

# NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, 3 February 2016

## REQUEST TO REVIEW SCHOOL STRUCTURES FOR TWO OF TOOWOOMBA'S OLDEST SCHOOLS

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office (CSO) is responding to the changing educational landscape impacting St Saviour's primary and secondary schools.

Executive Director of the CSO, Dr Patrick Coughlan advised that in October 2014, the Office received a formal request from the school communities of St Saviour's primary and secondary schools, asking the office to undertake a feasibility study that will investigate the future social, community, environmental and operational requirements of each school.

"The services of Mrs Dianne Goosem, former Director of Brisbane Catholic Education Office has been engaged to conduct an initial scoping study. Mrs Goosem has begun an initial scoping consultation with parents, Parents and Friends Associations and Boards of both schools.

"No decision has been made and any decision to proceed with modifications to either school is subject to the outcomes of the feasibility study and associated results from a working party that has been convened to conduct consultations.

"The consultation phase of the study, will begin in the first half of this year and will involve our school, parent, parish and wider Toowoomba communities.

"We believe each group will provide a valuable perspective on the future direction of one of the oldest educational institutions in Toowoomba. It is important to us as an organisation not to lose sight of the valuable role and contribution these schools continue to play in ensuring all children have access to the very best Catholic education," said, Dr Coughlan.

On completion of the study, a report will be provided to the Executive Director, Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office and the Board, who provide advice and recommendations to the Bishop of Toowoomba.

"A key focus of a Catholic education is to prepare and empower students to confidently take the next steps in their life's pathway. I feel very privileged that our schools are the school of choice for so many," said Dr Coughlan.

For further information, please contact Kirsty Hogarth, Communications and Marketing Officer via email at [kirsty.hogarth@twb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kirsty.hogarth@twb.catholic.edu.au) or phone 4637 1408.

*Neither the content of the Catholic Schools' website nor the content of any other website accessible from hyperlinks on the Catholic Schools' website is incorporated into, or forms part of, this announcement.*

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## **About the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba**

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba covers the geographic areas of the Darling Downs, the Granite Belt, Maranoa, Warrego and Gregory South Districts of Queensland.

The Diocese provides a wide range of services to these communities including:

- Schools (education)
- Social welfare
- Aged care

Provision of these services makes a significant contribution to strengthening and supporting the social and economic fabric of these local communities and supporting the Government's policies.

## **About Catholic Schools**

The largest of the services provided by the Diocese is education. Since 1973, Catholic Schools (formerly Catholic Education) has worked collaboratively with support from the Federal and State governments and other non-state school sectors to provide a quality education to students across the Diocese.

Close to 10,000 students from more than 6,070 families are receiving a Catholic education in 31 schools across the Diocese.

Catholic schools supported by an administrative office employ more than 1,300 staff to provide quality teaching and support services to students and their families.

The support provided to schools is through the services of education, policy, governance, accountability, resourcing, and school improvement. The administrative office employs over 80 staff whose functions are to:

- Provide curriculum implementation, teacher development and support, inclusive education and indigenous education support that aligns with the objectives set by the Federal and State governments
- Provide advocacy support and representation, development and implementation of policies that respond to the objectives set by the Church, Federal and State governments
- Ensure compliance of regulations, procedures and guidelines set by the Church, Federal and State governments
- Provide accountability in the implementation and support of frameworks that monitor, report and provide feedback on outcomes on objectives set by the Church, Federal and State governments such as curriculum, learning, teaching and assessment, student protection, work health and safety etc
- Provide corporate services such as HR, finance, capital development, administration, ICT and demonstrating effective stewardship
- Implement and support schools improvement frameworks in line with objectives set by the Federal and State governments

## **School funding**

Catholic schools receive about 81% of the total average government annual funding per student received by government schools (\$9,238 / student in a Catholic school vs \$11,440 / student for a government school).

Children educated in Catholic schools deliver significant savings to the Queensland government and taxpayers.

Funding for Catholic schools equates to:

- 59% provided by the Australian government
- 20% by the Queensland government
- 21% is provided by parent and community contributions.